

The NIDDK Fellows Newsletter

September 2008

Upcoming Events

FelCom Social

Canoeing on the Potomac
Saturday, 20 September
For more information contact:
pooputc@niddk.nih.gov

Grant Writing 101

Sept. 16, 23 and 30
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Job Fair

October 16 2008
8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Natcher Auditorium
Cost: **Free**

Grant Writing 102

Nov. 3, 10 and 17
10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Building 12B, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Register for grant writing workshops by contacting Lorraine Moore
LorraineM@intra.niddk.nih.gov (301-496-6685)
Cost: **Free**

Getting the Most Out of a Career Fair

Thursday, 25 September
8:00 am - 12:00 noon
AAAS Second Floor Auditorium
1200 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Cost: **Free**

The Fellows Advisory Board (FAB) in collaboration with the NIDDK Fellowship Office has started a monthly newsletter to announce events and news. If you would like to help write articles for the newsletter or have an idea for what should be included please contact rasika@niddk.nih.gov.

Meet the Fellowship Office

The mission of the office is to recruit new fellows and to improve the education, research environment, and overall training experience within the intramural program to the mutual benefit of our fellows, scientific investigators, and administrative staff. The office's broad portfolio of activities includes, but is not limited to the following functions:

- Recruitment of fellows
- Orientation programs
- Advocacy regarding benefits and privileges
- Tracking and monitoring research progress
- Annual informational surveys and exit interviews
- Oversight of mentoring Implementation of programs designed to enhance professional and career development (for example, grant writing, job counseling, and networking)
- Development of laboratory management skills
- Conflict resolution

By assisting in recruitment, serving as an advocate for all Fellows, providing administrative support, creating educational and learning opportunities, and acting as a liaison between Fellows and their Mentors, the Fellowship Office fulfills a vital role and hopes to achieve its important goal of broadening and enhancing the research experience at NIDDK.

Louis Simchowitz, M.D, M.B.A



Dr. Louis Simchowitz is an accomplished physician-scientist, educator, and administrator with demonstrated expertise in the areas of biomedical research, science development, medical education, grants administration, and financial management. He has held leadership positions at top-ranked academic health centers and at a world-renowned private, philanthropic foundation.

Most recently, Dr. Simchowitz worked at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the world's largest private philanthropic organization devoted exclusively to biomedical

research. As Senior Program Officer for Graduate Science Education, he directed three prestigious fellowship training programs. Previously, Dr. Simchowitz served as the Vice-Chairman for Research Affairs in the Department of Internal Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis where he had been a long-time faculty member.

Before taking on these key leadership roles, Dr. Simchowitz conducted basic biomedical research on the cell physiology of human neutrophil function in acute inflammation and ran a well-funded laboratory. At the same time, he served as Chief of the Arthritis Section at the VA Medical Center and actively participated in varied teaching, training, and patient care activities. He has authored over 60 scientific publications and served as an editor and reviewer for numerous medical and scientific journals.

Dr. Simchowitz received his M.D. degree from New York University School of Medicine and undertook postgraduate medical training at two of the Harvard Medical School-affiliated hospitals in Boston. He was awarded an M.B.A. from the Olin School of Business at Washington University in St. Louis.

Amy Magra, Ph.D.

Dr. Amy Magra is the Program Specialist for the NIDDK Office of the Fellow Recruitment and Career Development where she is involved with organizing the NIDDK Fellows Scientific Retreat, coordinating numerous seminars and meetings, addressing concerns and questions from NIDDK Fellows, and recruiting new Fellows to the NIDDK. Dr. Magra is a former IRTA Postdoctoral Fellow with NIDDK. From 2004 until 2007, she was a member of Dr. Constantine Londos' lab where she studied lipid metabolism in adipose tissue. She also served as an Associate Editor for the Fellows Editorial Board, and was a member of FelCom, the FelCom Career Development Subcommittee, the NIDDK Postdoctoral Scientific Workgroup, and the NIH Orchestra. Prior to her postdoctoral fellowship, Dr. Magra received her Ph.D. in 2004 from the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York.

Lorraine Moore

Ms. Lorraine Moore is the Program Assistant for the NIDDK Office of Fellow Recruitment and Career Development. As a Program Assistant, she provides assistance to the NIDDK Fellowship Office staff and NIDDK Fellows to effectively implement the NIDDK Fellowship Office activities such as Grant Writing Workshops, Career Speaker Series, Nancy Nossal Award and the annual NIDDK Fellows Scientific Retreat. Ms. Moore has been with the NIH since 2001. Prior to coming to the NIDDK Fellowship Office, she worked in NICHD and the NIDDK Genetics and Biochemistry Branch.

Kennedy Center Open House

A visit to the Kennedy Center Open House was organized by the FelCom social committee on Saturday, September 13, and led by Chaya Pooput, the NIDDK FelCom representative. The theme of the open house this year was "Arts Across America"

The highlights of the afternoon included:

- The National Symphony Orchestra playing famous classical pieces along with music from films (Jaws, Indiana Jones...). The conductor even invited a child in the audience to be the conductor for the finale.
- Chinese Puppet shows.
- Aspen Santa Fe Ballet from New Mexico (contemporary dance)
- Susan Farrel Ballet from DC (classical dance)

The day ended with the outdoor concert by Lila Downs. According to Chaya "It was awesome and she totally rocked the stage! There were tons of family friendly events and a lot of shows were dedicated to children. I think it's a great way to introduce arts to the kids."



Lila Downs performing at the Kennedy Center Open House

First Annual NIDDK Fellows Picnic

Our first annual picnic was held at the Meadowbrook Park facility on Sept. 14th, a balmy Sunday afternoon. We had about 50 Fellows along with their family and friends join us for hot dogs, hamburgers, games and more. Thanks to grill masters- John Malone and Ryan Magra, all the fellows who shared home made goodies with us and everyone who joined us to help make the day so memorable!



Scenes from the picnic